

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00232 181857Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /081 W

-----063139 181900Z /50

O R 181819Z APR 78

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2793

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS MBFR VIENNA 0232

STATE FOR ACDA FOR NEWHOUSE

USICA FOR PGM/PPE LAKE ALLEN; EU FOR COHEN

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: END OF ROUND XIV PRESS STATEMENT

GIVEN BY NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR DE VOS APRIL 19, 1978

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT FOR APRIL 19 WIRELESS FILE

"EMBARGO UNTIL 1200 GMT APRIL 19."

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
W. DE VOS VAN STEENWIJK ON BEHALF OF THE
WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

BEGIN STATEMENT

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00232 181857Z

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
AS SEEN BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AT THE END OF THE FOURTEENTH
ROUND.

WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER THIS ROUND TO HAVE BEEN A
SIGNIFICANT ONE WITH RESPECT TO AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT IN THE
VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AT TODAY'S
PLENARY SESSION INTRODUCED A MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE INTENDED
TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATION DECISIVELY TOWARD A FIRST PHASE
AGREEMENT.

OUR INITIATIVE DEALS WITH TWO MAJOR OPEN ISSUES OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS THE ISSUE OF COMMITMENTS ON THE
AMOUNT AND TIMING OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS BY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

THE SECOND ISSUE IS THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF
PHASE I SOVIET REDUCTIONS.

OWING TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THESE TALKS, WE CANNOT
GIVE FURTHER DETAILS.

THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE MADE THIS MOVE BECAUSE OF
THEIR DEEP INTEREST IN ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT BASED ON THE
PRINCIPLES OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES AND COMMON
COLLECTIVE CEILINGS WHICH WOULD ENHANCE STABILITY AND STRENGTHEN
PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

WHETHER OR NOT THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW ACTUALLY DO ENTER A
DECISIVE STATE DEPENDS ON THE RESPONSE WHICH THE EASTERN
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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00232 181857Z

PARTICIPANTS WILL MAKE TO THIS NEW INITIATIVE. WE HAVE
EMPHASIZED TO OUR EASTERN COLLEAGUES THE IMPORTANCE WE
ATTACH TO AN EASTERN RESPONSE WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO MOVE
FORWARD TO AN EARLY PHASE I AGREEMENT.

THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND WAS ALSO IMPORTANT FROM THE STAND-
POINT OF THE DATA DISCUSSION. THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON
THE MODALITIES OF A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA. THEY THEN
PROCEED TO EXCHANGE THE ADDITIONAL DATA AND HAVE BEGUN A
DISCUSSION OF IT.

THIS DISCUSSION HAS NOT THUS FAR CLARIFIED THE REASONS
FOR THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON
EASTERN MANPOWER IN THE AREA. NEVERTHELESS, A CONSIDERABLE
AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL DATA IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PARTICIPANTS,
AND THIS IS MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE DISCUSSION OF
THIS SUBJECT IN A MORE CONCRETE AND PURPOSEFUL WAY.

THE DISCREPANCY MUST, OF COURSE, BE RESOLVED BEFORE
THERE CAN BE AGREEMENT ON DATA. AGREEMENT ON DATA ON
MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA IS ESSENTIAL FOR AN AGREEMENT
ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS. WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT,

IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE VOLUME OF REDUCTIONS
OR TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, OUR NEW
INITIATIVE IS CONDITIONAL ON AGREEMENT ON MANPOWER DATA.
IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THEN EVER TO WORK IN A PRACTICAL
AND BUSINESSLIKE WAY TO DETERMINE THE SOURCES OF THE DIS-
CREPANCY. THE PARTICIPANTS NOW HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, BUT NO MATTER WHAT
PROGRESS IS MADE ON SUCH ISSUES, THE DATA DISCREPANCY MUST
BE RESOLVED, OR IT WILL REMAIN AN OBSTACLE TO A SATISFACTORY
AGREEMENT.

IN SUM, THIS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT AND EVENTFUL ROUND.
FROM THE WESTERN VIEWPOINT, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE NOW HAVE
A REAL BASIS FOR OVERCOMING THE IMPASSE IN THESE TALKS AND FOR
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PAGE 04 MBFR V 00232 181857Z

ENTERING THE DECISIVE STAGE OF NEGOTIATION OF A FIRST
AGREEMENT. BUT THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE RESPONSE THE EAST MAKES
TO OUR NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS.
END STATEMENT RESOR

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